

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

The drawings have been objected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as allegedly not showing each feature of the invention recited in the claims.

The Specification is objected to due to informalities as set forth in the Office Action.

Claim 1 is objected to because of the informalities as set forth in paragraph 5 of the Office Action.

Claims 18-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claims 18, 20, 21, 27, 28, 30 and 31.

Claims 1-31 are pending for consideration.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection as set forth in paragraph 5 of the Office Action.

The Office Action states that claims 18-30 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Additionally, the Office Action indicates that claim 31 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action.

Objection to the Drawings and Disclosure

The drawings and disclosure stand objected to as allegedly not showing each feature of the invention recited in the claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the objection.

The release operational member of claim 8 corresponds, e.g., to the release knob 80 shown, e.g., in Figs. 10(a) and 10(b), the operation of which is described in, e.g., paragraphs [0093]-[0099]. The contact interlocking member of claims 8-10 corresponds, e.g., to the operational protrusion 90 shown, e.g., in Figs. 10(a) and 10(b), the operation of which is described, e.g., in paragraph [0099]. The coupling member of claims 8 and 9 corresponds, e.g., to the mechanism including the gears 82-85 and the interior racks 88 and 89, shown, e.g., in Figs. 10(a) and 10(b), the operation of which is described, e.g., in paragraphs [0094]-[0098]. The gear train of claims 9 and 10 corresponds, e.g., to gears 82-85, the operation of which is described, e.g., in paragraphs [0094]-[0098].

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-17 have been amended to address the objections of paragraph 5 of the Office Action. The Applicant thanks the Examiner and submits that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 18-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 18, 20, 21, 27, 28, 30, and 31 have been amended to address the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. With regard to the rejection of claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, the term “module” is a term used in metric gearing, and is defined as the number obtained

when the diameter of a gear is divided by the number of gears. "Module" is the inverse of "pitch," a better-known term in the United States.

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-31 is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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